

SSWAM Executive Team

President: Matthew Jackman

I became interested in social work because of the relational opportunities to work alongside oppressed groups. Mental health is a primary interest for me. I am passionate about social justice issues such as refugees and asylum seekers and LGBTIQ rights. In the next five years I hope to be an accredited mental health social worker and family therapist with postgraduate training. I am undertaking my honours year in the straight Bachelor of Social Work and have worked in child protection support for two years. Volunteering is another passion and I hope through SSWAM we can raise awareness of social justice issues on campus and at state-wide events to present a cohort of caring agitators who critique mass violations of human rights.

Vice President: Caitlin Hallett

I am extremely passionate about seeing vulnerable and oppressed people reach their full potential and have control over the decisions that affect their lives. I have worked for two years in drug and alcohol rehabilitation and counselling. I am studying the Bachelor of Social Work and Health Science course and a Bachelor of Theology. I work part time as a Health Science tutor and study skills advisor. I volunteer for The Salvation Army and Ready Step Grow and am planning on completing my Honours in Health Science and Masters in Mental Health Science next year. My heart is to see social work students as catalysts for social change which is why I am a part of SSWAM.

Secretary: Rebecca Mountford

I am passionate about mental health and I hope very much to do my next placement at the Eastern Region Mental Health Association (ERMHA). I am a Masters student, having gained my Bachelor of Arts from Monash in 2011 with a major in psychological studies and a minor in German studies. In 2010 I trained with Lifeline Melbourne to be a telephone counsellor, which I found to be a wonderful experience. Prior to commencing the Social Work Masters course I studied counselling at ACU National. I am very excited to finish my degree at the end of 2015 and find work in the mental health area, and I am also very excited to be a part of SSWAM this year.

Treasurer: Kate Welby

Social Work provides me the opportunity to empower vulnerable groups to achieve a better quality of life. I am interested in refugee and asylum seeker rights and hope to work in this area. I am completing the Bachelor of Health Science and Social Work (Honours) degree and have been employed as a Disability Support Worker for the past 18 months. I currently volunteer in the Recreation Program at Alkira, an organisation who provides services to people with intellectual disabilities.

Through SSWAM I hope that students will gain a greater understanding of social justice issues and become supporters of social change.

Executive Member: Rachel Clarebrough

Prior to studying Social Work I studied Criminology (Arts) at Monash, focusing on the justice system in Australia and varying factors that play into criminality. While I greatly enjoyed this, my frustrations with the current system led me to social work. After graduating this year I plan to do my Masters in Forensic Social Work and hopefully work in the justice system and/or in mental health in the future. I'm very excited to be a part of SSWAM this year and hope that we can raise a lot of awareness and host some fun events throughout the year.